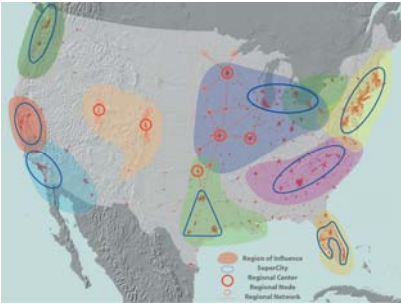


# Global Gateway Regions



**To be globally competitive, the U.S. must initiate a new, large-scale strategy for growth. This process, with an eye to future prosperity, equity, sustainability and financing, spans city, regional and state borders in the form of multiple emerging “Global Gateway Mega-regions”, spread across the nation. It demands bold ideas and investments designed to integrate the economies of, and reduce the disparities between, states and regions, increasing the competitiveness of regions and the whole nation in a global economy.**

## Historic Precedents

In 1807 and 1907, Presidents Jefferson and Roosevelt respectively instituted national plans to stimulate major infrastructure, conservation and regional economic strategies that powered America's economic growth and success in its first two centuries. A bold new strategy is needed as the nation enters its third century. 2007 is an ideal time to enact a new vision, based not only on precedent, but on current trends.

## A Look Into the Future

By 2050, the U.S. population is expected to grow by 40% to 430 million people. 70% of this population and 80% of all economic growth is projected to reside within the nation's 9 emerging Global Gateway Regions. As large networks of metropolitan areas, each spreading over thousands of square miles, these mega-regions serve as America's economic engines: centers of technological and cultural innovation.

## Current Growth Trends

How can this growth be accommodated in regions that are already approaching build-out in their land use and infrastructure, while contending congestion, environmental degradation, and increasing socio-economic inequity?

In less than 50 years the nation will need to build half-again as much housing, commercial development and infrastructure as during the past two centuries, if current development patterns are continued. The nation would consume four times as much land by 2050 as in its history.

Housing affordability is increasingly difficult in the nation's mega-regions, where housing costs are rising twice as fast as incomes. Meanwhile, social and economic disparities have widened further with the economic restructuring of recent years, limiting opportunities to upward mobility.

## A Third Century Strategy

The future of the nation and its global competitiveness depend on the livability and sustainability of these mega-regions, and on their connection to vast under-performing rural areas. Large-scale efforts based on coordinated land use and transportation strategies are imperative as the United States charts the course for its third century.

Already, Europe and Pacific Asia are initiating mega-regional strategies for cohesion and competitiveness through intra-regional and intra-national infrastructure investments. Similar large-scale strategies must be pursued in the United States that focus on reversing current trends to develop more efficient urban forms; infrastructure systems that have the needed resiliency, redundancy and capacity for growth and national security; and the infrastructural and educational foundations for economic growth and opportunity.

## Vision Framework

The mega-region requires a new and improved framework for cooperative governance and financing. As in the past, the President may promote this vision and lead efforts to coordinate federal agencies towards policies at the mega-regional scale. State, regional and local officials, as well as coordinating groups, foundations, and universities could work to shape these policies.

Using a basic Return on Investment structure, both public and private investments must focus on efficient networks that increase productivity, while generating affordable outcomes in housing and transportation. A goal-oriented, performance-based decision process that supports this objective is integral, while government policies and tax structures reinforce this approach.

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